WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Open sky policy

†*86 PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated open sky policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the aviation industry is likely to grow with the formulation of this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) International air services are governed through the mechanism of bilateral air services agreements signed between India and different countries. While Government has gradually liberalized the traffic entitlements under these agreements with various countries based on traffic demand, no 'Open Sky' policy has been adopted. Traffic rights have been substantially liberalized with USA, UK, China, Germany, Australia, Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, France, ASEAN countries and Sri Lanka during last two years. Liberalization of traffic entitlements has resulted in enhanced operations between India and various countries.

Methane gas for industries

†*89. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the time expected to be taken to make available to industries methane gas received from Jharia & Raniganj blocks;

(b) whether Government is inviting foreign companies to exploit it commercially; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) 1 Coal Bed Methane (CBM) block in Jharia and 3

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.